HENRY VII (1485 - 1509) → first king of the Tudor dynasty  
end of the Wars of the Roses → dividing line between medieval and modern times  
STRONG MODERN STATE: he administered the state like a business man: foundations of English naval power  
→ England's trading position stronger (merchant fleet) || Increase of its military strength  
BUT absolute king: he mercilessly suppressed any rebellion of claimants to the throne; he summoned parliament only six times to pass laws against the nobility  
Also mediator: Trade agreements were made with Flanders and Denmark; understanding with a) Spain: king's eldest son Arthur married Catherine of Aragon, daughter of the king of Spain; b) Scotland: his daughter Margaret married James IV  

HENRY VIII (1509 – 1547): complex figure: typical Renaissance Prince: magnificent court (dancing, music etc.), poet, athlete || Ambitious: he invested money on warships and guns: the English fleet became the best in Europe  
but also TYRANT: Sir THOMAS MORE (ca. 1478-1535) – important humanist venerated by Catholics as Saint - opposition to the Act of Supremacy → death; last years of his reign: many noblemen beheaded on the slightest suspicion of claim to the throne  
main event during his reign: 1534: REFORMATION  
prelude: John Wycliffe (1324 - 1384) and Lollardy; Luther (1483-1546) - 95 theses – Wittenberg, 1517; Calvin (1509 - 1564) systematiser of the movement  
Absolute monarch: he regarded himself as the only source of right both in the spiritual and in the temporal field – occasion: he had been married by special dispensation to Catherine of Aragon - no male heir (daughter, Mary) - he asked Pope Clement VII for a divorce in order to marry Anne Boleyn - denied - Henry made the English Parliament declare the marriage void and married Anne Boleyn (daughter, Elizabeth - accused of treason and adultery → beheaded) - a challenge to the political power of papacy  
RESULT: BREACH from Rome → he became the “SUPREME HEAD OF THE CHurch”  
England became a Protestant country: suppression of orders of monks and friars; wealth of the Church (lands, monasteries, charities such as schools and hospitals for the poor) confiscated and sold to landowners and members of the middle class (their importance grew)  
Reformation made effective by Parliament that doubled its importance  

Open question: Explain the role of Henry VIII in the English Renaissance following these guidelines: Henry VIII’s education / meaning and consequences of the Act of Supremacy / comparison with the Italian Renaissance  
Though a scholar himself ( he was the epitome of the perfect Renaissance man) he checked the spread of Humanism in England after the schism from Rome that transformed England into a Protestant country. The religious, social and political revolution that followed meant also the dissolution of many monasteries and the consequent loss of their treasures of art and literature while those who opposed him paid with their life, as the most distinguished of English humanists, Thomas More. The Reformation is at the basis of the distinguishing characteristics of the English Renaissance: a more meditative tone while individualism is seen more as a form of responsibility than self-assertion and enjoyment, as it was for the Italian Renaissance.  

Question: List the causes of the Act of Supremacy. Use the following information to write a 10/15 line composition adding all the necessary linking words.  
Personal: Henry VIII wanted to marry Anne Boleyn, and the Pope refused to declare his previous marriage null.  
Political: the Church was linked to France and Spain, and Henry did not want these countries to interfere with his own authority in England through the influence of the Catholic Church.  
Economical: the king wanted the rich possessions of the Church, and also objected to the taxes people had to pay to the Church.  
Religious: the Catholic Church was not popular; common people did not understand the ritual in Latin, and wanted to be able to read the Bible.  

Henry VIII married Jane Seymour - she gave him a son: Edward VI - she died in childbirth  
he married Anne of Cleves - the marriage was dissolved  
he married Catherine Howard - she was executed because of a love affair with her cousin  
he married Catherine Parr - she survived him  
AT HIS DEATH – 1547: widespread poverty, serious unemployment problem, considerable inflation (prices were very high); Tension: risks of a return to the disorders of a civil war  
EDWARD VI (1547 – 1553) – he was only a boy (10 years old) – inherited the problems left by his father  
decisive move from Catholicism to a form of Protestantism which came to be known as Anglicanism: 1549: "The Book of Common Prayer" in English: all official editions of the Bible were accompanied by anti-Catholic annotations,  
worship and the furnishings of churches became much simpler; statues, pictures, candles considered distractions from praying and reading the Bible  
MARY I (1553 – 1558): daughter of Catherine of Aragon. Catholic: Protestants were persecuted and many burnt at the stake or sent into exile ("Bloody Mary"); married Philip, heir to the throne of Spain.  
Fear: England could become subservient to Spain; the majority of the nation was anti-Catholic and anti-Spanish
ELIZABETH I (1558 – 1603) **Renaissance Court:** centre of literacy and artistic activity
in the form of translation (she could speak French, Latin, and Italian with ease) and original works: Edmund Spenser (1552 – 1599) - Christopher Marlowe (1564 – 1593) - William Shakespeare (1664 – 1616) - John Donne (1572 – 1631)

Personality: strong, intelligent, wise use of the Privy Council and her **marriageability** as a political weapon: she encouraged the hopes of European princes with whom it was important to keep on good terms but she did not marry - “the Queen was married to her people” → the cult of the "Virgin Queen"

**Religious Question:** most pressing problem - it had led to so much bloodshed during the reign of "Bloody Mary" - she chose to take a middle course trying to avoid extremisms: **Acts of Supremacy and Uniformity (1559)** reintroduced **ANGLICANISM** in England: it gave her the title of "Supreme Governor" instead of Supreme Head of the English Church - this _compromise_ is at the basis of the successful Elizabethan religious settlement now the existence of Protestant England depended on Elizabeth's life - the heir to the throne was her cousin **Mary Stuart** (1542-1587), CATHOLIC Queen of Scots - Mary's Protestant enemies, including the Calvinist preacher and founder of the Presbyterian Church JOHN KNOX compelled her to **leave Scotland** - Mary at first asked **Elizabeth** for **protection** which was granted - at the same time (also helped by the extreme wing of Catholics and Spain) she plotted against Elizabeth who eventually condemned her to death (1587)

**Home Policy:** - Protestant traders were arriving from France and Netherlands where they were persecuted - they brought with themselves new ways of weaving → new industries were established → England was transforming from an agricultural to an industrial country

**Enclosures:** unemployment → 1601: Poor Law: the state had the responsibility to look after people who could not care for themselves (aged / infirm / orphaned / children)

**Foreign Policy:** Ireland: dangerous situation: perpetual state of revolt: backward country at the mercy of rival clans → battleground of the **Counter Reformation**

**Spain:** explorations and overseas trade expanded, making England a commercial and seafaring power - the interests of Spain and England clashed: its main trade rival and enemy + piracy (they captured the Spanish treasure ships bringing precious metals, tobacco and slaves from America and Africa, secretly encouraged by the Queen - Sir Francis Drake (1541-1596), Sir Walter Raleigh (1552-1618) - Philip of Spain reacted: he claimed the English Crown → dangers for England = destruction of the work of Reformation + England's independence threatened + destruction of the political balance in Europe (in favour of Spain)

1585-1604: war against Spain - 1588: Philip's “**Invincible Armada**”; slow and heavy ships; English ships: lower, faster and armed with long-range guns → Spanish Armada defeated [also thanks to the help of bad weather] → North America was now open to British colonization

England reached its peak of glory and national unity: it was now the most prominent sea power of the age

1603: death of Elizabeth - Tudor line died out

**JAMES I:** The Beginning of the Stuart Dynasty (1603 - 1625)

James VI (1603-1625) of Scotland, only son of Mary Stuart, became the first Stuart king in England

**foreign policy:** 1603: fifteen years after the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, England and Spain were still at war his ambition was to be a peacemaker: war was expensive and would make him dependent on Parliament → peace with Spain made it possible to lay the foundations of English colonial possessions in North America

DIVINE RIGHT OF THE KING: he based his rule on the theory of the "DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS": he believed that, as a monarch, he was the representative of God on earth - he summoned Parliament only to ask for money its members refused to levy any taxes unless the money was needed for war

the decline of “Merry England”: religious question

Protestant: he authorized an official translation of the Bible, which came to be known as the **King James Bible** → profound impact on English literature

he approved neither Catholics nor Puritans

**CATHOLICS** were fined if they refused to attend the Church of England → they started plotting to get rid of him: 1605; a group of Catholics planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament during the official opening of the session by the King (the **Gunpowder Plot**) - the plot was discovered in time and all the conspirators were put to death this event is still commemorated in England on **5th November**, when children burn figures of **Guy Fawkes** (1570-1606), one of the leaders of the conspiracy, on bonfires

**PURITANS:** disapproved the rites of the Church of England: the clergy should be distinguished by their behaviour and not by special clothing or practices
God's grace could save Man requiring of him a holy life of hard work and discipline: hardworking attitude was to be of great value in the future development of a powerful commercial and then industrial nation; man's duty was to choose a profitable profession and improve their social status: his success was seen as a sign of God's blessing - consequently, poverty was regarded almost as a sin high sense of duty and morality + avoided excess and vanity + against any form of entertainment since leisure was considered a waste of time (theatre, in particular, was "the very poison and corruption of men's minds and manners")

1620: the Pilgrim Fathers, religious dissenters left England for America on the Mayflower and founded New Plymouth: the new world was a convenient ground for unwanted religious and political agitators it was also a valuable market for English goods which were exchanged for American products like tobacco

During the same period the East India Company set up trading posts in India and in the region now called Indonesia